

AMENDMENT

U.S. Appln. No. 09/594,405

PHA 17,489

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested in light of the above amendments and the following remarks.

SUMMARY OF THE OBJECTIONS AND REJECTIONS:

Claim 2 was objected to for informality in the preamble.

Claims 1 and 2 stand rejected under 35 USC § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite.

Claims 1 and 2 also stand rejected under 35 USC § 102 as being anticipated by Akatsuchi (U.S. Patent No. 5,086,559; hereinafter "Akatsuchi").

RESPONSE TO REJECTIONS:

The above amendments are believed to overcome the objection of claim 2 and rejections of claims 1 and 2 under 35 USC § 112, second paragraph.

Also, in view of the above amendments, it is respectfully submitted that Akatsuchi does not anticipate independent claim 1 at least because this reference fails to show two placement heads on a Y-slide, where each of the two placement heads move simultaneously in the X-direction and are independently drivable in a Y-direction.

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In Akatsuchi, two XY-axis tables (see Fig. 1, elements 8a and 8b) are provided. Each of these tables moves in the X and Y directions by its own MX and MY motors, respectively (see col. 2, lines 50-51).

The Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit held in *Verdegaal Bros. v. Union Oil Co. of California*, 814 F.2d 628,631, 2 USPQ2d 1051, 1053 (Fed. Cir. 1987):

A claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference.

Akatsuchi does not teach or suggest at least two placement heads on a Y-slide, where each of the two placement heads move simultaneously in the X-direction and are independently drivable in a Y-direction.

Claim 2 is dependent from claim 1 and is believed to be allowable at least for dependency therefrom, and for separate reasons of patentability.

For all the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that all the present claims are patentable in view of the cited references. A Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner deem that there are any issues which may be best resolved by telephone communication, he is respectfully

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requested to telephone Applicants' undersigned Attorney at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,
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1/13/03


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SC

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANT: J. M. VAN GASTEL PHN 17,489
SERIAL NO.: 09/594,405 EXAMINER: A. TUGBANG
FILED: June 15, 2000 ART UNIT: 3729
Title: COMPONENT PLACEMENT MACHINE

VERSION WITH MARKINGS SHOWING CHANGES MADE

1. (Twice Amended) A component placement machine for placing components on a printed circuit board, comprising:
- a transport device for transporting printed circuit boards in an X-direction₇;
 - ~~on either side of the transport device, respectively, at least one first and a second feeder area, in each of which there is at least one feeder with components₇;~~
 - a Y-slide, which is drivable in the X-direction₇; and
 - ~~at least one~~ two placement heads on said Y-slide, each of the at least two placement heads being capable of placing components from the at least one feeder area onto the printed circuit board, which

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—wherein each of the at least two placement heads move
simultaneously in the X-direction and are independently
drivable in a Y-direction,

~~characterized in that the Y-slide is provided with at least two~~
~~placement heads which can be independently driven in a Y-~~
~~direction.~~

2. (Amended) A~~The~~ component placement machine as claimed in claim 1, ~~characterized further in that a number~~ a comprising plurality of Y-slides ~~are present~~, which are independently drivable in the X-direction, each of the plurality of Y-slides being provided with at least two placement heads.